

What is claimed is:

1. An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:
a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving
section adapted to receive a portable phone, said pocket member also having a latching
mechanism to retain said portable phone in said receiving section, and a connector
interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone;

an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting
section of said pocket, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket in said receiving section
and a connector interfacing with the connector of said pocket,

wherein said pocket is received and removed from said receiving section of said
interface module by movement of said pocket in a substantially single dimension.

2. The adaptor of Claim 1, wherein said pocket and said interface module
include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said
pocket with said receiving section of said interface module.

3. The adaptor of Claim 1, further comprising a latching mechanism which
secures said pocket to said interface module and which is activated by movement of said
pocket relative to said interface module in a substantially single dimension.

4. The adaptor of Claim 3, wherein said pocket member and said interface
module are mechanically and electrically substantially simultaneously interconnected.

5. An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable phone, comprising:

a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive a portable phone, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable phone in said receiving section, and a connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable phone; and

an interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket in said receiving section and a connector interfacing with the connector of said pocket, said latching mechanism movable between a first position in which the pocket member is engaged by said latching mechanism, and a second position in which said pocket is not engaged by said latching mechanism.

6. The adaptor of Claim 5, further comprising a memory device within said pocket for recording voice input.

7. The interface module of Claim 5, further comprising a spring member for biasing said latching mechanism toward said first position.

8. The interface module of Claim 5, further comprising a release mechanism for holding said latching mechanism in said second position.

9. The interface module of Claim 8, further comprising an engagement member for engaging said release mechanism and retaining said latching mechanism in said first position.

10. The interface module of Claim 8, further comprising a release mechanism for moving said latching mechanism from said first position to said second position.

11. The interface module of Claim 9, further comprising a second release mechanism for moving said release tab into engagement with said shelf member.

12. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said pocket and said interface module include complementary registration members for aligning said mounting section of said pocket within said receiving section of said interface module.

13. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said latching mechanism includes at least one latch tab which is disposed within said interface module when said latching mechanism is in the first position and which engages said pocket when said latching mechanism is in the second position.

14. The adaptor of Claim 13, wherein said latching mechanism comprises a plurality of latch tabs and at least one latch tab is positionally offset from another latch tab.

15. The adaptor of Claim 14, wherein said plurality of latch tabs are configured to overcome manufacturing tolerances and mechanically secure said pocket member to said interface module.

16. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said pocket member connects with said interface module by a limited, one-dimensional movement of either said pocket member or said interface module relative to the other.

17. The adaptor of Claim 5, wherein said latching mechanism precludes rotational engagement or disengagement of said pocket member and said interface module, thereby protecting the electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

18. The adaptor of Claim 8, wherein said latching mechanism is resilient such that said pocket can be removed from said interface module without activation of said release

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mechanism and said latching mechanism will still function to latch said pocket to said interface module.

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19. An adaptor for hands-free operation of a portable electronic device for voice and/or data communications within a vehicle, comprising:

a pocket member having a receiving section and a mounting section, said receiving section adapted to receive said portable electronic device, said pocket member also having a latching mechanism to retain said portable electronic device in said receiving section, and a connector interfacing with the electronics of the portable electronic device; and,

an interface module mounted to said vehicle, said interface module having a receiving section configured to mate with said mounting section of said pocket, a latching mechanism to retain said pocket in said receiving section, and a connector electronically interfacing with the connector of said pocket and with systems resident within the vehicle.

20. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein the portable electronic device can receive power from the power system of the vehicle for purposes of operating the portable electronic device or charging a battery within the portable electronic device.

21. The adaptor of Claim 19, further including ventilation means associated with at least said interface module for allowing air flow in and out of said interface module.

22. The adaptor of Claim 21, wherein said ventilation means includes air vents disposed in the body of said interface module.

23. The adaptor of Claim 21, wherein said latching member includes a latch release member disposed proximate the external surface of said interface module and said ventilation means includes an air passage adjacent said latch release member.

24. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said portable electronic device includes a portable phone.

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25. The adaptor of Claim 19, wherein said connector interfacing with the electronics of said pocket may move in two dimensions to assist the electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

²⁹26. The adaptor of Claim ²³19, wherein said mounting section of said pocket member and said receiving section of said interface module align the electrical connectors that provide electrical connection between said pocket member and said interface module.

³⁰²⁷27. The adaptor of Claim ²³19, wherein said receiving section of said interface module includes a raised portion which interfaces with said pocket member to facilitate alignment between said pocket member and said interface module and to control activation of said latching mechanism of said interface module.

~~28.~~ A system for enhancing the functionality of a portable electronic device, comprising:

an interface module adapted to interface with the electronics of the portable electronic device, said interface module connected to a power source for providing power to the portable electronic device and said interface module further including a connection to an audio output and an audio input device for hands-free operation of the portable electronic device.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein said interface module further includes a memory device for receiving and storing data input.

30. The system of Claim 28, wherein said pocket member further includes a memory device for receiving and storing data input.

31. The system of Claim 28, wherein said data input can be in the form of an analog signal, a digital signal or sound waves.

32. The system of Claim 28, wherein said interface module is disposed within a vehicle and interconnects the portable electronic device to the audio system of the vehicle to provide enhanced audio capabilities to the user.

33. The system of Claim 28, wherein said interface module is disposed within a vehicle and interconnects the portable electronic device to a microphone.